



# NEWS RELEASE

## VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### VIRGINIA'S CORN FORECAST ONCE AGAIN AT RECORD YIELD

Corn yields are expected to average 140 bushels per acre according to a survey conducted by the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the highest yield ever recorded for the Commonwealth surpassing the previous record of 126 bushels per acre in 1996. This forecast is nearly 4 percent higher than the September 1 forecast of 135 bushels per acre. Many elevators are experiencing larger than capacity deliveries of corn as a result of the exceptional corn harvest.

With the cotton harvest just underway, producers are not as optimistic for exceptional yields. The recent lack of warm, sunny days during the growing season has delayed and hindered maturity of the crop. As a result, the October 1 forecast dropped to 700 pounds per acre, down 3 percent from the September 1 forecast of 722 pounds per acre. The soybean crop remains in mostly good to excellent condition and is forecast at 35 bushels per acre, up 3 percent from the September 1 forecast of 34 bushels per acre.

Peanut-friendly weather has aided in the digging and combining of the peanut crop allowing the harvest to be ahead of schedule. The October 1 peanut yield forecast remains at 3000 pounds per acre. The apple production is forecast at 340 million pounds, down 6 percent from the 1999 production. The flue cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2450 pounds, up 1 percent from the 1999 production.

### U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn grain production is forecast at 10.2 billion bushels, down 2 percent from last month, but up 8 percent from 1999. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 139.6 bushels per acre, down 2.2 bushels from last month but up 5.8 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would be the largest production and yield on record. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 73.0 million acres, down 50,000 acres from last month.

Soybean production is forecast at a record high 2.82 billion bushels, down 3 percent from September 1, but 6 percent above 1999. The yield forecast, at 38.7 bushels per acre, decreased 0.8 bushel from last month, but is 2.1 bushels above the 1999 final yield. Acres expected for harvest are forecast at a record 73.0 million acres, down 1 percent from September, but up 1 percent from 1999.

All cotton production is forecast at 17.5 million 480-pound bales, down 5 percent from last month, but up 3 percent from 1999. Yield is expected to average 620 pounds per harvested acre, down 2 pounds from last month. Dry weather and above-normal temperatures continue to stress the crop and lead to increased abandonment.

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